

WEST END FINAL



Evening Standard

SOMETHING IN THE CITY

MOBILE MANIA

What is going on in the mobile phone world?

Everyone from Microsoft to Google is in Barcelona this week, unveiling hot new ideas at the annual Mobile World Congress. The Holy Grail is new technology to access the internet via mobile or wireless devices.

Isn't that something the mobile industry has promised a lot more than it has delivered?

Yes, slow downloads and lack of bandwidth have been a problem. Lots of companies are trialling new ideas. So today T-Mobile and Orange unveiled a partnership to supply 24 TV channels on mobiles in west London later this year. Technology firms are also launching the first UK WiMAX trial in Maidstone, which will allow 75,000 people access to mobile broadband.

What is WiMAX?

It stands for Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access. Enthusiasts claim it lets people access mobile broadband more quickly and cheaply than existing technology such as Wi-Fi.



The new small screen? TV is coming to your mobile

Er, what happens if I don't live in Maidstone or west London. What else is happening in Barcelona that I should be excited about?

BlackBerry is getting in on the music market by unveiling a new audio player which links to your "CrackBerry". A firm called GoHello is also pushing new all-in-one phone technology which allows you to treat a mobile as a desk phone when you are in the office — without incurring charges from your mobile operator.

Anything that involves cutting my mobile bill sounds good to me.